

REMARKS:

Claims 1-23 are pending and are subject to restriction by the Examiner into one of three inventions (Group I, which reads upon claims 1-9, drawn to a hollow support structure reinforced with a high tensile strength material; Group II, which reads upon claims 10-18 and 21-23, drawn to a method for repairing a hollow support structure by placing a high tensile strength material and an aggregate material inside the structure; and Group III, which reads upon claims 19-20, drawn to a method for repairing a hollow support structure by wrapping a high tensile strength material around the outside of the structure).

The applicant hereby elects with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group II, which reads upon claims 10-18 and 21-23.

The applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement in view of the fact that no basis for restriction has been articulated as required under the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. Every requirement to restrict has two aspects: (A) the reasons (as distinguished from the mere statement of conclusion) why each invention as claimed is either independent or distinct from the other(s); and (B) the reasons why there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required. MPEP 808. Neither of these aspects has been addressed by the Examiner.

Moreover, the applicant respectfully submits that the claims would not present a serious search burden because there is no indication that the subject matter of each claim has attained recognition in the art as a separate subject for inventive effort. Indeed, all claims relate to a


composite dowel system and related repair methods. As a result, searching each claim is likely to result in finding art pertinent to the other claims. If the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions. MPEP 803.

Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims in this case stand ready for examination on the merits.

Except for the fee due for a 1-month time extension petition, no fee is believed to be due.

Should there be any unforeseen fee or credit, please charge or apply it to deposit account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,



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